

Miscellaneous Cabinet.

NON QUO, SED QUOMODO.

VOL. I.] SCHENECTADY, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1823. [NO. 19.]

Science, Arts, &c.

EGYPTIAN MUMMY.

From the Boston Journal of Philosophy and the Arts.

Description of an Egyptian Mummy, presented to the Massachusetts General Hospital; with an account of the operation of Embalming, in ancient and modern times.—By JOHN C. WARREN, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, in Harvard University.

[CONTINUED.]

The accounts of these ancient writers are in a great degree confirmed by the discoveries of modern travellers. The incision is found on the left flank for removing the viscera, and the perforation in the ethmoid bone, for the extraction of the brain. We notice the appearance of odoriferous gums, of carbonate of soda, or some other saline substance; of bandages rolled many times round the body, and of the cases or coffins, carved into a resemblance of the deceased. Asphaltos or bitumen of Judea, so often found as the preserving substance, is not mentioned by either of these writers; for the kommi, spoken of by Herodotus, as the matter employed to glue on the bandages, must have been gum arabic. The use of asphaltos as an embalming substance is, however, mentioned by Strabo, and some other authors.

The effects of the cedria, the liquor extracted from the cedar, must have been misunderstood. At least we do not at present know in what way a substance, obtained from the cedar tree, could corrode the viscera so much as to cause them to be discharged. It has been very naturally and judiciously suggested by M. Rouyer, that the corroding liquor was the natron, or carbonate of soda, rendered caustic and dissolved. Or we may come nearer to the account of the ancients, by supposing that the cedar tree was employed to produce a caustic potass, to which this name, cedria, was applied; and that, after the use of this, a resinous or pitchy substance, obtained also from the cedar, was thrown into the cavity of the abdomen.

As to the surmaia, employed to preserve the bodies of the poor, we are not able to determine its nature. It might have been the substance called pis-asphaltos, or possibly turpentine; though we cannot believe that either of these, merely thrown into the abdomen, would have preserved the whole body. Mummies of the poor have been found in abundance, placed in sands near the sepulchral grottos of the great. Some of these are tolerably

preserved; yet appear to have had no other embalming substance than a covering of powdered charcoal; while others are filled with pis-asphaltos. Probably these and the others on whom surmaia was employed, were subjected to the dessicating power of the carbonate of soda.

M. Rouyer, one of the savans who were in Egypt with Bonaparte, made an exact examination of a great number of mummies, with a view of ascertaining the nature of the embalming substances. He informs us that near the ruins of Thebes, and in the neighbouring mountain, he found a great many mummies entire and well preserved. "It would be impossible," says he, "for me to estimate the prodigious number of those which I have found heaped up, or scattered in the sepulchral chambers, and in the multitude of cavities in the interior of this mountain."

He distinguishes them from each other in a manner conformable to the account of Herodotus, into those which have the incision, and those without. The class which have the incision are again-divided into those dried by the aid of balsamic substances, and those which have been salted.

The mummies preserved by balsamic and astringent substances are filled, some with aromatic resins, others with asphaltos.

The mummies filled with aromatic resins are of an olive colour; the skin is dry and flexible, like tanned leather, and seems to form a common mass with the flesh and bones; the features appear to be the same as during life. The abdomen and chest are filled with friable resins, which have no particular odour, but when thrown on burning coals produce a thick smoke with a strong aromatic smell. These mummies are very light, dry, and easy to break; they preserve their hair and teeth.—Some of them are gilt over the whole surface of the body, others on the face and hands.—They seem to have been prepared with great care, and are unalterable so long as they are preserved in a dry place; but when exposed to the air, attract moisture, and in a few days exhale a disagreeable smell.

The mummies prepared with bitumen are of a black colour. The skin is hard and shining as if it had been varnished. The head, breast, and abdomen are filled with a resinous black substance, which presents the properties of bitumen. These are heavy, unalterable, and do not attract humidity. Many of them are gilt like the first species.

The mummies which have an incision in

the left side, and which have been salted, are likewise of two kinds, one filled with resins, and the other with asphaltos or bitumen.—Both of these are very numerous. When exposed to the air they attract moisture, and are then distinguished from the species not salted, by being covered with a light saline efflorescence, which appears to be sulphate of soda.

The second class of mummies, which have not the incision on the left side, nor any other part of the body, but from which the viscera have been withdrawn through the anus, are also distinguishable into two sorts: first, those which have been salted, and afterwards filled with a bituminous substance, and second, those which have been merely salted.

The first species of these are filled with a substance called *pis-asphaltos*,* less pure than the bitumen of Judea. Not only are all the cavities filled, but the surface is covered, and every part seems to be penetrated with it; so that it might be supposed the body had been immersed in a cauldron of the bitumen, while in a state of liquefaction. These are the most common of all; they are black, hard, heavy, difficult to break, and have a disagreeable, penetrating smell. The bituminous matter is fat to the touch, less black and friable than asphaltos; dissolves imperfectly in alcohol; distilled, it gives an abundance of fat oil, of a fetid smell.

The mummies which are only salted and dried, are not so well preserved as those above mentioned. It is rare to find them in an entire state; for most commonly the flesh is, to a greater or less extent, separated from the bones, leaving them quite clean and white.—The skin is white and supple. The flesh, having been less dried, is sometimes converted into adipocire, and lumps of this matter are also found in the cavities. They are strongly impregnated with a saline substance, which appears to be principally sulphate of soda.

Such is the result of the researches of M. Rouyer. Whence it appears that the most perfect mode of embalming was, as stated by the ancient authors, with the resins. Next with asphaltos. The third with *pis-asphaltos*. The fourth and meanest with saline substances.—It is probable, however, though M. Rouyer does not appear to be of this opinion, that the saline substance was equally employed in every mode; but that in the more perfect, it was carefully washed away before the resinous and bituminous substances were applied.

Whatever was the mode of embalming, he found the coverings of the bodies much the same; varying only in the number of thicknesses of bandage, or in the delicacy of its texture. Next the body there is found a close

shirt, laced at the back, and made tight at the neck. The head is covered with a square piece of linen, of fine texture; the centre of which serves as a kind of mask: sometimes there are five or six of these, one over the other, and the last is gilt, and represents the countenance of the deceased person. Every part of the body is enveloped by separate bands, impregnated with resin; the legs are brought together, and the arms crossed over the breast, and confined in this situation by bandages, curiously rolled round the whole body, to the number of fifteen or twenty thicknesses. The outer turns are covered with hieroglyphics, and secured by long bands, artificially and symmetrically arranged.

Under the exterior bands are often found idols of gold, bronze, varnished earthen ware, painted or gilt wood, rolls of papyrus containing hieroglyphics, and many other objects which had a relation to religion, or were associated with circumstances dear to the individual while alive.

It is rare to find mummies enclosed in their cases; the pieces of these only being discovered. Many bodies were placed in the sepulchral caves, wells, and niches without; and those which had possessed cases were generally thrown out of them. Those cases which served, says M. Rouyer, for the rich, and for persons of great distinction, were double.—That which inclosed the body was composed of a great number of thicknesses of a kind of pasteboard; and this was inclosed in a second, made of sycamore wood or cedar. They were accommodated to the shape of the body they inclosed. The outer case had a likeness of the individual. It was composed of two pieces only, an upper and under, joined by projecting parts, secured with cords, externally covered with a simple layer of plaster, or varnish, and ornamented with hieroglyphical figures.

Belzoni says, that such as could afford it, probably had a case made to contain their bodies, on which was written a history of their life; while those in poorer circumstances had their lives written on papyri, rolled up, and placed between their knees. In the appearance of the cases there is a great difference; some are plain, others are very much wrought, and richly adorned with painted figures. The cases were generally made of sycamore, and always bear a human face, male or female. A few contain a second within them, of wood or plaster. The inner cases are fitted to the body of the mummy; though some of them appear to be merely covers, in form of a man or woman, easily distinguishable, by the beard or breast. The wooden case is first covered with a layer of plaster or cement, not unlike plaster of Paris; and on this are sometimes cast figures in basso relievo, for which they

* The natural *pis-asphaltos* is, according to Dioscorides and others, a kind of bitumen flowing from certain mountains. It is found in various parts of the world.

made moulds. The whole case is painted, the ground generally yellow, the figures and hieroglyphics blue, green, red and black, but the last colour is rarely used. Some of the colours appear to be vegetable, as they are evidently transparent; and the whole of the painting is covered with a varnish which preserves it effectually.

This traveller found, in some of the mummies, lumps of asphaltos weighing two pounds. The entrails he saw bound up in linen and asphaltos; but Porphyry says, that after the entrails were removed from the body, the embalmer held them up to the sun, addressing to him a prayer, in the form of invocation; he declared, "that the body had not committed any crime during life; but that what faults might be imputed to it, ought to be charged to the bowels, which were then thrown into the Nile." For this account Porphyry has the support of Plutarch.

The mummies of the priests are supposed, by Belzoni, to be distinguished by the peculiar care with which they are arranged. The bandages are strips of white and red linen intermixed, covering the whole body, and forming a curious effect of the two colours. They have sandals of painted leather on their feet, and bracelets on their arms and wrists. He found eight mummies in their cases, in the state in which they were originally deposited. The cases lay side by side, flat on the ground, facing the east, in two equal rows, imbedded four inches deep in mortar; which must have been soft when they were deposited.

To be continued.

Curious Musical Instrument.—We have examined a very curious musical instrument, called the *trumpocello*, invented by an ingenious American, by the name of *Nathan Adams*. It is a wind instrument, made of brass, in the form of a trumpet, or trambone, of a very large capacity, and produces a tone very little inferior to the lowest pipes of an organ; its pitch or key, is F, and in relation to other wind instruments, stands on the fourth *ledger line*, below the *stave* in the *bass*, from which it proceeds by a perfect *cromatic* scale to three or four ledger lines above the *stave*. Its range, however, is dependant in some measure, on the lips of the performer; the tone is shifted by three pair of keys, or valves, inside of the tube; its whole cubic capacity is 3 1-2 gallons; its length, on a folded form, is about five feet six inches; its whole length, if strait, would be about 18 feet; it is quite easy to blow, and portable enough to use in a military band, it weighing but 8 lbs. The appearance is very handsome, and its tones are full, deep, and sonorous. The ingenious inventor wishes it adopted in military bands.—*Nat. Adv.*

PROPERTIES OF THE APPLE.

Col. T. Pickering, in his address to the Agricultural Society, expresses himself in the following language relative to the properties of the Apple:

After providing a proportion of apples for the table and the ordinary purposes of cookery, I do not hesitate to express my opinion, that for all other uses, *sweet* apples are entitled to the preference. The best cider I ever tasted in this country, was made wholly of sweet apples. They afford, also, a nourishing food to man and all domestick animals.—What furnishes a more delicious repast than a rich sweet apple baked and eaten in milk? I recollect the observation made to me by an observing farmer, before the American Revolution, that nothing would fatten cattle faster than sweet apples. Mentioning this a few days since, to a gentleman of my acquaintance, in an adjoining state, he informed me that he was once advised to give sweet apples to a sick horse; happening then to have them in plenty, the horse was served with them, and he soon got well, and continuing to be fed with them, he fattened faster than any other horse he had ever owned, that was fed with any other food. Mentioning to the same gentleman what I had long before heard, that good molasses might be made of sweet apples, he confirmed the fact by an instance within his own knowledge. The process is very simple. The apples being ground, and the juice expressed at the cider mill, it is immediately boiled, and the scum being taken off, the boiling is continued until the liquor acquires the consistence of Molasses.

RELIGIOUS.

REVIVAL OF RELIGION IN WALES.

To the editor of the Evangelical Magazine.

TAUNTON, June 10, 1823.

Dear Sir,

I think the encouragement afforded by the relation in the following letter, to pray for the peculiar influence of the Holy Spirit, is such as may be grateful to the pious readers of your useful magazine.

T. LUKE.

"Trelech, May 11, 1823.

"In the beginning of the last year, I endeavoured to impress the minds of our members with the necessity of praying for the out-pourings of the Holy Spirit; the importance of doing so was felt; and in the course of a few months this feeling became general; several prayer-meetings were formed, and several members of some years standing in the church, were much affected in these meetings, and evidently began to pray with greater energy and fervour, whilst others became equally affected. The dwelling-houses in which these meetings were established, soon became too full to con-

tain the numbers that assembled on such occasions. Barns, during the summer months, were converted into houses of prayer; and when convenient, in the evening, we assembled at the chapel, which was crowded. Many of the young people who had attended our Sabbath Schools, began to manifest a strong desire to make a full profession of attachment to the Lord Jesus Christ. In the praying societies, at times, thirteen or fourteen would succeed each other in addressing the Throne of Grace, with truly Christian simplicity. You might hear some pleading for the exhibition of divine mercy to their parents, to their brothers and sisters, to the members of those families at whose houses such meetings were held, &c. There are hitherto no extravagancies, no jumping, not so much singing as we have witnessed in former revivals; but more praying, and some possessing uncommon gifts.—Scarcely an evening passes without a meeting for prayer, in some place or another. We have admitted into communion since last August, 230, besides several now before our societies under examination; and the work seems to proceed in a still greater degree, in the branches of our church. We are not the only people so favoured; there has been a great revival at Neuaddlwyd, under the Rev. T. Phillips; there is also at Glynarthen, (a branch of the church under the care of the Rev. T. Griffiths,) such a revival that, I am informed, there were sixty candidates for church fellowship at one time; and at Henlan, 27. May our Jesus ride triumphantly in the Gospel chariot! With Christian love, I remain yours cordially,
M. J.”

Maumee Mission.—The mission among the Ottawas seems to prosper. It appears there have been considerable accessions of members to the school. The number of scholars now is about 40.

Baptist Mission in India.—A letter from Dr. Carey, dated Serampore, Jan. 23, 1823, says, “The reports from the different stations are, perhaps, as gratifying as they ever were at any former time. The additions within the last year were very considerable. In Jessore, all the inhabitants of one village, except five houses, have either made an open profession of the Gospel, or are in a pleasing train towards it. Several villages near Dhacca are full of inquirers and inquiry. Brother Thompson has baptized a learned Brahmin at Dellee, the first fruits of that city. Schools are much encouraged, and generally well attended.—Female education, especially in Calcutta, is carried on with great success.

DESULTORY.

HISTORY OF CECILIA.

The passion of love is supposed to exert its sway most despotically over the softer sex, the gentler half of our species; yet though I cannot but confess that women, taken in the aggregate, are more delicate of conformation than men, and less capable of resolute exertion and firmness, there are instances among them of a firm endurance of evil, and an energy of mind fully equal to the boasted strength of the stern lords of the creation.—A woman, indeed, who has a soul at all, (for it is well known to be the Turkish creed that that beautiful machine is not endued with so useless a spring,) is much more animated, more alive than man. Her impulses, if less permanent, are more lively; and though their vigour may quickly relax, the first spring is so powerful that it will carry them farther than a more continued impetus will lead a man. But I am going to set before my readers the character of a female, not more distinguished for her feeling than for her resolution, and whose case, as it may be common to all, may contain a general warning, and a general example.

Cecilia was, from her infancy, the child of misfortune. She lost her mother in the first month of her life; and experienced through her childhood every disadvantage which can attend a motherless female. It is needless to detail the circumstances which threw her, without fortune and without friends, in a dependent situation, into an elegant family. There, however, we find her from a very early age, bereft of all the splendid hopes which her father's prospects once held out to her, and trusting alone to “innocence and heaven.”

Cecilia was no beauty. Instead of the Grecian elegance of form, and the unrivalled delicacy of feature of her lovely mother, she could boast only an active, though not a slender person; a complexion that glowed with the pure tints of health; a countenance that bespoke good humour; and an eye that beamed intelligence. Her skin had been despoiled of its polish, by that foe to loveliness, the small pox; and the narrowness of her fortune deprived her of the adventitious advantages of dress. The lowliness of her situation, which she felt most acutely—(perhaps too much so, since circumstances not incurred by guilt ought to bring no imputation with them)—repressed all the freedom of her manner, and all the graces of her youth. With these exterior disadvantages, Cecilia was living with a woman of fashion, fortune and beauty; who was satisfied with the charitable deed of affording a home to a fellow creature, and thought she treated her with sufficient kindness when she did not beat her!

Cecilia, however, possessed a MIND far superior to her situation; it had been elegantly and even studiously cultivated. She was no mean proficient in modern accomplishments, and was more than commonly skilled in the belleslettres. She had loved moral philosophy as the most improving and the most interesting study; and she now sought in its doctrines a relief from the discomforts she experienced. She could not believe but that unwearied assiduity, diligence, and good humour would procure her the good will, and even the affection of her patroness; but the course of a few years showed her that she deceived herself, and that a fine lady is a nondescript in ethicks.

Had Cecilia been one of those toad-eating sycophants who can bear to dangle after their ladies into publick, clad in their forsaken ornaments, at once the envy and the scorn of the whole tribe of waiting gentlewomen—had she been an adept at flattery, and echoed with applause the unmeaning witticisms she was condemned to hear—she would, probably, have been a favorite! But such was not her character. Conscious of some internal merit, Cecilia sought to be chosen, not suffered: finding, unhappily, that she could not obtain what she sought, she gradually withdrew more and more from observation; and although obliged to frequent all company, she never met with even the common attentions due to her age and sex.

Thus retired in herself, and thrust back by circumstances, it was not possible for her to obtain any attention in the gay and dissipated circle in which she was condemned to move; nor to have the smallest chance of being lifted to a better situation. The best years of her life were wasted in hopeless despondency; and she could look forward to nothing but passing the evening of her days in the same joyless gloom, when some events occurred which seemed to promise a possibility of happiness.

Alcanor, an intimate friend of the family, had, for some time distinguished Cecilia with more than a polite—with a kind attention.—Alcanor was a man of sense and a gentleman, and bore an unblemished character for probity and honour. Cecilia, who, with a bosom formed to feel the warmest raptures of love, with a judgment keen to perceive, and a heart alive to distinguish excellence, had hitherto preserved herself from any particular attachment, only by perpetual reflections on the hopelessness of her situation, felt a fearless gratitude for the friendship of Alcanor. It exalted her in her own eyes above the insignificance into which she was conscious she had sunk in the estimation of those around her; yet, considering Alcanor as a being many degrees above her, she indulged her gratitude without the

smallest idea that it would ever ripen into a warmer sentiment. Nor could it ever have disturbed her peace, though it might have added to her happiness, but for some occurrences, not necessary to be detailed, which threw her often into confidential talk with Alcanor.

Though wholly a novice in the affairs of love, Cecilia had not reached the age of twenty-eight without having observed the effects of the passions; and the inquietude of which she now began to be conscious, alarmed her for the nature of her sentiments towards Alcanor. His increasing kindness increased her inquietude and her alarms. She strictly examined her heart, and learned to distrust, not him, but herself. She had hitherto put no restraint on the natural warmth of her manner, when conversing with him: she now assumed a more guarded style. Alcanor saw the difference of her conduct, and strove by the most delicate attentions to bring her back to her former unreserve. Cecilia could no longer be blind to the meaning of Alcanor. What had she to fear from a man whose bosom was the seat of honour? What a happiness, what a triumph for her to be selected by so superior a being! She looked timidly at Alcanor.—His respectful deference, his affectionate attentions, his graceful gaiety re-assured her: by degrees her timidity, her reserve wore off; and, without a word on either side, they were on the footing of avowed lovers. To have doubted his honour would have been sacrilege! She became a new being. She looked forward with some apprehension, indeed, to the situation to which her marriage would raise her; but she endeavoured to render herself worthy of it. She hourly improved in grace, gaiety and appearance; and Alcanor became hourly more and more attached; yet so delicate were the marks of his attachment, as to be by all unnoticed save by the conscious Cecilia.

She was now anxiously expecting the moment when his avowal should dissipate all apprehensions; when one day, after a temporary absence, as she advanced to meet him with her accustomed gladness, she was struck with the strangeness of his manner! Like he was, indeed; but what was mere likeness from Alcanor to Cecilia? She gazed in his face; she saw in it no answering warmth! She retired to weep, and in solitude chid herself for her fancifulness. She returned to prove Alcanor faultless and herself mistaken. She found him—to all others, cheerful, animated, and gay as usual—to her, invincibly cold. Day after day passed on, and no returning kindness beamed in his eye. Hope was extinct—and thus ended forever an attachment, singular in its progress, and barbarous in its termination. No opportunity now offered of speaking alone to Alcanor; and if it had, of what

service would it have been to the unfortunate Cecilia? Of what was she to complain? Nothing, however, was ever farther from her wishes than to complain, except to reproach Alcanor. To conceal her griefs, to conquer her feelings, to command her countenance; these were the tasks she imposed on herself; these were the efforts that exhausted her strength; that embittered her solitary hours, and that bathed her pillow with tears!

These salutary efforts, however, succeeded; and Cecilia is a noble example that philosophy and exertion can surmount the greatest trials, and afford comfort under the heaviest misfortunes. She has devoted her time, with exemplary fortitude to those pursuits which formerly interested her; and she finds from her laudable exertions, the truest and most permanent comfort! One only reflection remains, to embitter her hours of retirement; and that is her earnest and not unjustifiable curiosity to learn the reason of Alcanor's sudden change: but this explanation she must assuredly rest without, since she can never ask, and he seems not at all disposed to volunteer it.

That no future clouds may arise to disturb a serenity so laudably regained, must be the wish of every one who reads this recital. But what words can do justice to the unsuspected perfidy of Alcanor, who first obtained the full confidence of his destined victim, and then amused himself with watching the progress of a passion which he coolly resolved to reduce to despair? Cecilia, indeed, with a delicacy of which only the most feeling mind could be capable, sometimes reproaches herself with having too readily yielded to the semblance of affection, but her own heart, and that of the treacherous Alcanor must fully exculpate her from this blame. The following lines, however, which I obtained by an accident not to be related, prove her jealousy of her own conduct, and the acuteness of her feelings: they were written at a very early period of her distress, and but ill convey her present philosophic calmness.

I caught a bright, fantastic cloud,
And in the glittering moonlight dressed it;
Then, of the beauteous pageant proud,
Too fondly to my bosom pressed it!

I fancied, by the dubious light,
I saw my phantom sweetly smiling;
My bosom throbbed with wild delight,
All Reason's soberer fears beguiling.

What dreams of joy my soul revolved!
What pleasant visions hovered o'er me!
Till by the unconscious warmth dissolved,
My treasure faded from before me!

Condemned, henceforward, still to grieve,
My senses rove in wild confusion;
Nor can I, scarcely, yet believe
My bliss was all a vain illusion!

From treacherous hope, will I no more,
Deceitful forms of pleasure borrow,
But, silently, my loss deplore,
And sink a prey to secret sorrow!

From the Cherry-Valley Gazette, Nov. 11.

This morning will bring fresh to the memories of many of the old surviving inhabitants of this place, the horrid scene that transpired forty-five years ago this day, when they were driven from their peaceful habitations by the sudden appearance of an infuriated and merciless foe, headed by Butler and Brant, two blood-thirsty, base and unprincipled wretches, as ever disgraced the annals of history.

It is not my province to describe the feelings of those that witnessed that bloody scene, or give an adequate idea of their sufferings, when all the cruelty of a savage foe, and all the relentless and determined vengeance of hardened and abandoned wretches was excited, and vented upon the inhabitants. Some suddenly driven from their habitations without clothing, exposed to the bleak winds of the season, witnessing from the mountains to which they had fled for safety, the conflagration of their own dwellings, having been compelled, for their own preservation, to leave behind them many of their nearest relatives, who were butchered and mangled in a barbarous and shocking manner. Others that were spared the butchery to which many fell victims, were taken prisoners, forced from their families and homes, and compelled to bear the hardships resulting from the inclemency of the season, augmented and aggravated by the severity of their brutal captors.

It is presumed that the remembrance of that inauspicious day, which was ushered in by the appalling whoops and yells of savage vengeance—spent in conflagration and carnage—and which terminated in the evacuation of the infant settlement; and the unparalleled sufferings of its inhabitants, will not fail to excite in our fellow-citizens the liveliest emotions of horror and regret; and that the names of *Butler* and *Brant*, although meriting oblivion, will yet be held up to receive execrations commensurate, if possible, with the turpitude of their characters, and the blackness of their crimes.

Q & Z.

It is stated in the city papers that Doctor Mitchell has devoted the diamond ring, which he received from Alexander of Russia, to the cause of Grecian Freedom.